

### 3.10 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

This section characterizes existing cultural and historic resources in the Tukwila South site vicinity and identifies potential impacts to these resources under the Proposed Actions and alternatives. This section is based on the February 2005 Archaeological and Historical Resources Technical Report prepared by Entrix, Inc. (see Appendix H).

#### 3.10.1 Affected Environment

##### Background Information

##### Regulatory Overview

Federal and state environmental laws and regulations govern the historic preservation review process for the Tukwila South project. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the federal list of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources worthy of preservation. The State of Washington Office of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (OAHP) administers the local NRHP program under the direction of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Resources that are significant in terms of American history, prehistory, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture may be eligible for NRHP listing at the national, state or local level, based on meeting any one of four criteria. Under federal law, listing is possible for districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, and landscapes that: (A) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or (B) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or (C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (D) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (36 CFR Part 60). Archaeological sites are primarily assessed under Criterion D. Buildings less than 50 years old generally do not meet the NRHP criteria. See Appendix H for further discussion of NRHP criteria.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that any federal or federally-assisted project or any project requiring federal licensing or permitting consider the effect of the action on historic properties listed in or eligible for the NRHP. Because the proposed Tukwila South project requires an Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit, Section 106 applies to this project.

The City of Tukwila Comprehensive Plan Community Image Element Goal 1.2 (Historic Preservation) calls for “a heritage conserved and interpreted so that Tukwila citizens can be aware of connections to the past.” Goal 1.2.2 of the Community Image Element calls for the installation of interpretive markers to describe the importance of historical buildings. The Community Image Element also calls for developing and implementing plans and projects that protect and promote the historical legacy of the Green River Valley (Goal 1.2.5) (refer to section 3.7, Relationship to Plans and Policies, for more discussion of City of Tukwila goals and policies).

## Site History

Appendix H contains an overview of the natural history, and prehistoric and historic settlement and use of the region, the Tukwila area and the site. The site and site vicinity are located within the traditional territory of the Muckleshoot and the Duwamish peoples. Euroamerican settlement of the Green River Valley began in the 1850s. By 1912, most of the project site was owned by members of the Mess family, who farmed the land and were influential community members. Historical King County Assessor records (1937) show that Anna Mess owned the craftsman-style house located at 19212 Frager Road (57<sup>th</sup>), on the project site. The Mess Family Cemetery is located at approximately 19821 Orillia Road, on land owned by the Tukwila Historical Society. The parcel containing the cemetery is surrounded by Planning Area G of the site; therefore, the cemetery parcel is not part of the site and would not be disturbed by development under the Tukwila South Project (see Figure 2-3 in Chapter 2 of this Draft EIS). Because the cemetery is not part of the site it was not evaluated for historical significance or potential project effects. See Appendix H for a complete discussion of the prehistory and history of the site and vicinity.

## Methodology

A cultural resource investigation was conducted by Entrix in 2004 and January 2005 to identify archaeological and historical resources located within the site area. The study included review of information from the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation; historical county atlases; King County Cultural Resources Division; local biographies; the Seattle Public Library; the Kent, White River, and Tukwila Historical societies; and review of records of geotechnical probes conducted previously within the site. Fieldwork conducted by Entrix archeologists included a pedestrian survey (onsite survey conducted on foot) and fourteen shovel test probe excavations around the project site. Shovel tests probes were conducted in areas of higher probability for the presence of buried archaeological materials. Additionally, subsurface inventory of two locations near the Green River was conducted using a backhoe to provide deep exposures for observation by Entrix archaeologists; these locations were chosen, based on the review of geotechnical probes, and their potential for representing historic landforms that may have been attractive for use in prehistory (see Appendix H for further detail).

As directed by federal law, the investigation surveyed for resources potentially eligible for NRHP listing within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), or the “geographic area within which (the) undertaking may cause changes in the character of or use of historic properties” (36CFR 8002(c)). For the Tukwila South project, this area was considered to be the project site. All historical resources that are at least 50 years of age were inventoried within the APE.

## Results of Archaeological and Historic Resource Investigation

No historic or prehistoric artifacts or cultural materials were observed in the pedestrian survey, examination of burrow mounds, or shovel test probes conducted for this EIS. No historic or prehistoric archaeological sites were identified on the project site based on the review of recorded information. Records of geotechnical probes confirmed that much of the site that is proposed for ground disturbance has low potential to contain important cultural deposits. No cultural material was observed in excavated backhoe trenches (these excavations were conducted in the southeast portion of Area H and the southeast corner of Area I).

The Mess Family Cemetery is located on a parcel owned by the Tukwila Historical Society. This parcel is surrounded by Planning Area G and is not part of the site. Between 1860 and 1905 approximately 50 people were buried in this cemetery. This was one of the first cemeteries in the White (Green) River Valley. The cemetery reportedly began when babies in the Mess family died due to a diphtheria epidemic in 1860. Neighbors and friends of the Mess family also used the cemetery for burial plots. Marie Mess, one of the last surviving members of the Mess family, transferred ownership of the cemetery to the White River Historical Society, which in turn transferred it to the Tukwila Historical Society. (See Appendix B to Appendix H for a previously prepared historic property inventory form for the Mess Cemetery).

The historic property survey identified eight resources that are at least 50 years of age on the site (see Appendix H). Only one of these properties, the Mess Family house located at 19212 Frager Road S, was found to be eligible for NRHP listing. Eligibility is based on Criterion A of the previously described NRHP criteria, based on the house's association with agricultural development in the White (Green) River Valley. The house and the Mess Cemetery are the only remaining resources associated with the Mess Family, who contributed to the early agricultural development of the historical White (Green) River Valley. See Appendix H for further description of the house and its significance to agricultural development in the valley.

### 3.10.2 Impacts

This section discusses potential impacts to existing cultural and historic resources on the site related to infrastructure construction and development of future land uses identified under Alternatives 1 and 2 and the No Action Alternative.

#### **Alternatives 1 and 2**

Alternatives 1 and 2 both assume disturbance of the same areas of the site for infrastructure development, mass site grading, and construction of new land uses; therefore potential impacts to historic and cultural resources would be the same under both of these alternatives.

### **Infrastructure Development Phase**

#### **Archaeological Resources**

No known archaeological sites are located within the site. In addition, subsurface inventory excavations indicated little potential for unknown, buried archaeological deposits to exist within the site. While the archaeological survey did not locate any materials on the ground surface and the potential for deeply buried archaeological materials cannot be completely discounted, the study completed for this Draft EIS has collected adequate subsurface information to indicate that such materials are unlikely to be present at the site. The survey identified portions of the site that have a low probability for discovering significant archaeological deposits; these include the hillside in the western portion of the site, most of the valley floor between the Green River levee and the hillside, and portions of Planning Areas C, D and F that are already developed (see Figure 2-3). Subsurface assessment of areas of the site considered to potentially have higher probability of containing buried archaeological materials resulted in a determination that monitoring during construction-related excavation is not warranted. However, there is a possibility that archaeological materials may be inadvertently encountered during construction. If such materials are discovered, work at the specific location would be suspended until the materials can be inspected by a professional archaeologist (see Mitigation Measures below).

### Historical Resources

Adverse effects are caused when a proposed action diminishes the integrity of the aspects of a property that make it eligible for the NRHP. According to Section 106 of the NHPA, and SEPA regulations, the following effects are reviewed when interpreting the potential for short-term and long-term adverse effects upon historic resources: demolition or alteration of property; isolation/alteration of surrounding environment; visual alteration; traffic congestion/parking/access; introduction of new construction; vibration; noise; change of use; temporary dirt/unintended damage (dust); and, neglect (36CFR part 800.9; see Appendix H for details).

As indicated under Affected Environment, the Mess Cemetery is not located on the site; it is located on a parcel owned by the Tukwila Historical Society and surrounded by Planning Area G. The cemetery would not be disturbed during the infrastructure development phase or through buildout of the site. No development is proposed in the immediate area surrounding the cemetery.

One building within the project site has been determined to be eligible for the NRHP. This property, the Mess house located at 19212 Frager Road S in Planning Area F, would be affected during infrastructure construction for Alternatives 1 and 2. Alternatives 1 and 2 would require the demolition or relocation of the house for the mass grading program (to establish site grades for future building development).

### **Full Buildout**

### Archaeological Resources

As described above, the probability for significant archaeological resources to exist within the site is limited. Major site grading and infrastructure development would be accomplished in the initial infrastructure development phase; therefore, the potential for impacts to any possible buried cultural materials during the building and onsite road development phase would be limited. No adverse impacts on archaeological resources would be anticipated.

### Historical Resources

As identified above, the demolition of the NRHP-eligible Mess house located at 19212 Frager Road S is proposed during the initial infrastructure development phase of the project. No additional impacts on historical resources would result during the full buildout phase under Alternatives 1 and 2.

### **Indirect/Cumulative**

The Tukwila South project would result in no indirect or cumulative impacts to area historic or cultural resources beyond the impact to the one NRHP-eligible property described above.

### No Action Alternative

As described above, no archaeological resources are known to exist on the site, and the potential for such materials to be contained in the site is limited; however, as under Alternatives 1 and 2, there would be a possibility for impacts to buried cultural materials during excavation of

development parcels. With less development assumed than under Alternatives 1 and 2, this possibility would be more limited.

Future construction and/or development could result in impacts to possible unidentified archaeological resources from certain excavation activities. However, since the flood protection barrier dike would not be relocated and the southern portion of the site would not be developed, the potential for impacts would be less than under Alternatives 1 and 2.

Because the No Action Alternative assumes development in Planning Area F, impacts effects to historical resources under the No Action Alternative would likely be the same as those described for Alternatives 1 and 2, and would likely include the demolition of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible Mess house located at 19212 Frager Road S.

### 3.10.3 Mitigation Measures

- As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, consultation with the Muckleshoot Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) would occur as part of the Corps of Engineers 404 permit process, regarding the results of the archaeological and historical resources study and the protocol for discovery of any materials during the construction phase.
- If buried archaeological materials are discovered during construction, work at the specific location of the discovery would be suspended until the materials are inspected by a professional archaeologist.
- In the event of the discovery of human remains on the site, all work at the specific location would stop and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, the King County Sheriff, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe would be notified.
- Prior to demolition, the National Register-eligible Mess house would be advertised in a local publication for potential relocation by an interested party.
- If the National Register-eligible Mess house is not purchased and relocated, recordation of the house could be completed in the form of Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) documentation, which follows National Park Service (NPS) regulations. Copies of the documentation could be provided to local repositories including historical societies and libraries.
- An interpretive sign could be located at the site of the National Register-eligible Mess House.

### 3.10.4 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Implementation of the Proposed Actions would result in demolition or relocation of one structure eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.